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Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

02079106.7

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Si aucun titre n'est indiqué se référer à la description.)

Solid state image sensor device and improved manufacture thereof

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**Solid state image sensor device and improved manufacture thereof**

The invention relates to a solid state image sensor (SSIS) device according to claim 1 and an improved manufacture method thereof according to claim 16.

Today's developments in image sensor technology are paving the way for a new generation of digital imaging products with broad consumer applicability. According to research studies, consumer's first preference for a computer peripheral is a digital camera. Digital camera sales are continuing to boom since this high quality, full-featured products become affordable for a broad base of consumers. With the ability to provide instantly viewable and easily insertable images into computer-generated documents, the rise in the popularity of the Internet as a communications medium, and most importantly, the  
10 elimination of the cost and time of film processing, digital cameras are going to replace traditional film cameras for many consumer applications. The total available market for digital imaging, including industrial and security cameras, medical appliances, automotive sensors, PC video cams, scanners, digital still cameras and digital camcorders is forecasted to grow from about 20 million units in 1996 to over 100 million units in 2002. Thus, though  
15 competition in the market demands for more efficient and rationalized manufacture of image sensor devices for the mass consumer market.

In a nutshell, image sensors, also called imaging devices or simple imagers, are specialized integrated circuits that act as eye of electronic equipment. Thereby, they detect and convert incident electromagnetic radiation, preferably light, i.e. photons, first into  
20 electronic charge, i.e. electrons and, ultimately, into digital bits, i.e. binary information. Each individual picture element, also called pixel, corresponds to a solid-state photosensitive electrical sensor element. Typically, an image sensor comprises at least in a row of such sensor elements, e.g. in scanners. Usually, these sensor elements are arranged as a two-dimensional matrix forming a photosensitive area, preferably identical with an image plane  
25 of the image to be converted. Such image sensors can be found for instance in digital still or video cameras. The side of the chip containing the sensor elements which functions as the photosensitive area will herein be referred as to the sensor side.

As to the photosensitive electrical sensor elements, there are two major technologies, the Charge Coupled Device (CCD) technology and the Complementary Metal

Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) technology. As to the first, simplest CCD image sensor element imaging one pixel is a charge transfer device that collects photocharge in pixels and uses clock pulses to shift the charge along a chain of pixels to a charge-sensitive amplifier. CCD's output pixel-by-pixel analog signals, which are ultimately digitized. As to the latter, simplest CMOS image sensor element imaging one pixel is a passive pixel, which consists of a photodiode and an access transistor. The generated photocharge within the photodiode is passively transferred from each pixel to downstream circuits.

As to the image sensor performance, an important aspect in imager sensors is the fraction of real estate within each pixel, which detects light, i.e. the optical fill factor. Today's fill factors do not reach 100% since a pixel area's part is used for signal transfer to the rest of the imager circuits. Therefore, light falling elsewhere is either lost or may create artifacts in images by generating electrical currents in the circuitry. Accordingly, micro lenses can be applied to increase fill factor and meet higher performance objectives. Micro-lenses nowadays standard feature of CCD and CMOS image sensors can be etched directly on the chip's surface for each pixel or added separately as an individual element during manufacture. In operation, they focus light on each respective pixel's photosensitive part and thus, when accurately deposited over each pixel, concentrate the incoming light into the photosensitive region and increase so effective fill factor. For effectiveness, micro lenses need a difference between the refraction index of the micro lens material and at least the refraction index of air. That is, micro lenses need an air gap to take advantage of the light fraction caused by the difference between the refraction of the micro lens material and the air within the air gap. However, since such air gap is generated during the final manufacturing of imager modules, a significant problem is pollution of the photosensitive elements by alien materials.

Moreover, since a SSIS device needs an optical system for projecting a desired image onto the photosensitive area, there are different problems in assembling and mounting of such optical systems onto the sensor side. In a first step, according to SOI, a glass layer may be to be glued onto the wafer containing the integrated image sensor circuitry. However, commonly used adhesives have nearly the same refraction index as the micro lens material so that the micro lenses will be neutralized. Thus, contact between the adhesive and the micro lenses has to be avoided. Secondly, there are a lot of parameters influencing the focus of a optical system, for instance the optical system has to be carefully aligned with the photosensitive area, plus there should be no tilt between the optical system's image area and the photosensitive area, further, it is crucial to have control of the heights within the lens

system with respect to the photosensitive area to avoid costly individual focusing of each image sensor. In this regard, a major target of actual research is going on wafer level packing (WLP), i.e. to concentrate as much as possible steps of imager module production at wafer scale.

5

The US-Patent 6,285,064 introduces a chip scale packing for optical image sensor integrated circuits, wherein micro lenses are placed on top of a wafer having the image sensors formed thereon. An adhesive matrix is placed atop of the wafer. The adhesive matrix has openings that align with the micro lensed sensor array on top of the wafer. A cover glass is then placed over the adhesive and the adhesive is activated to secure the cover glass to the wafer. Because the adhesive has openings above the micro lensed portion distortion or reduction of the lens effect by the adhesive shall be avoided. However, it is hard to control the distance between the image area and the cover glass, also is it possible that the cover glass wafer is not exactly parallel with respect to the wafer having the image sensors formed thereon. In such case, nearly each individual die will be different.

It is therefore an objective of the present invention to provide a solid-state image sensor (SSIS) device, which does not need for individual focusing of each image sensor's optical system. Further, it is also an objective to improve the manufacture of such image sensor devices with regard to the micro-lenses and the optical systems. In particular, cost of manufacture for a single SSIS device shall be reduced, i.e. to have better cost-price relation for SSIS devices used for instance in camera modules, mobile phones, handheld computers, e.g. PDA's, and mobile computers, i.e. laptops. Moreover, it is desired to have a SSIS device that is resistant to temperatures which occur during reflow soldering assembling processes.

A solid state image sensor (SSIS) according to the present invention comprises a semiconductor substrate layer having electrical functional integrated circuitry and providing a sensor side with at least one photosensitive area. Over said sensor side a stack of layers is arranged. Said stack comprises at least one first transparent layer arranged over said sensor side, at least one second transparent layer arranged over said first transparent layer comprising optical means for modulating of electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area, and at least one spacer layer arranged between said

sensor side surface and said second transparent layer, wherein said spacer layer provides a through hole coinciding with said photosensitive area and having at least same areal dimensions and shape as said photosensitive area.

A first aspect of the present invention is directed to the air gap for micro  
5 lenses. In case, said photosensitive area of a SSIS die is recessed with respect to surface of said sensor side, micro lenses may be applied to said photo sensitive area and over the micro lensed photosensitive area a cover glass sheet, i.e. said first transparent layer, can be applied. Due to the photosensitive area being recessed with respect to the surface of the SSIS's sensor side an air gap is formed. In the other case, said photosensitive area within said sensor side is  
10 not recessed with respect to the surface of said sensor side, the photosensitive area of the SSIS's sensor side will also be micro lensed. Advantageously, the air gap is made by using two glass sheets, preferably having wafer size, one with through holes, i.e. said spacer layer, having the same size of the image array and one normal cover glass sheet, i.e. said first transparent layer. The two glass sheets, i.e. said spacer layer and said first transparent layer,  
15 are bonded or glued together. Then both are glued with the spacer layer side onto the silicon wafer. This results in creating an air cavity above the micro lenses. By changing the thickness of said spacer layer the size, i.e. height, of the air cavity can be controlled. By this way imperfection within the glass can be shifted out of focus if said spacer layer is made thicker. As to the through holes within the spacer layer, these may be made by Ultra Sonic (US)  
20 drilling, powderblasting or etching.

As to a second aspect of the present invention, several arrangements for manufacturing the optical system, also called lens system, for a SSIS will be discussed in the following. However it should be noted that it goes without saying said the present invention should not be restricted to the following examples derived from the inventive basic idea.

25 Accordingly, the basic idea is to have layers, preferably for instance glass sheets, having wafer size. Some of these glass sheets containing an array of lenses, i.e. said transparent layers comprising optical means for modulating electromagnetic radiation, and glass sheets containing trough holes, i.e. said spacer layers, to be used as spacers between different glass sheets with lenses. From these two kinds of layers a stack can be built which  
30 will form a wafer level optical system for the SSIS. Therefore, theses glass sheets are mounted onto the silicon wafer comprising an array of SSIS dies and then, the wafer can be sawed into round about 1000 SSIS modules (8" wafer). Since lenses are the expensive part of existing SSIS modules, with the present invention a high cost reduction in manufacture of these modules can be achieved.

In first approach the basic idea of the present invention will be sketched by a first and a second embodiment: in the first embodiment according to the present invention, a single lens array is mounted on the wafer. However, in this solution the focal plane is curved, this means the focus points, i.e. the crossing of the light rays, on the edges of the

5 photosensitive area of the die do not reach the surface of the photosensitive area. This leads to a low performance regarding MTF of the optical arrangement. As second embodiment, a second spacer layer is arranged between said first and said second transparent layer. This solution has more or less the same performance as the first embodiment.

In a third embodiment, a additional glass sheet with lenses, i.e. a third  
10 transparent layer comprising optical means for modulating of electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area, is arranged between said first and said second transparent layer. This means a stack of layers comprising at least two layers with an array of lenses an one spacer layer are combined. In this embodiment, assumed that only convex lenses are used, there are three different combinations to build a wafer level  
15 optical system. As to the first and second arrangement, the stack is built that adjacent to the first transparent layer comes the third transparent layer with lenses, adjacent to this follows a spacer layer, and on top is the second transparent layer with lenses. In this arrangement, for orientation of the lenses in the second transparent layer there are two possibilities: with respect to the convex lens, the lens can be turned towards or away from the photosensitive  
20 area. As third possible arrangement, the spacer layer is mounted next to the first transparent layer and on top follow the third and the second transparent layer with lenses, respectively. Since these both final layers have to be fixed together there is only on possible arrangement. The lens contained in the third transparent layer is orientated towards the die and the lens in the second transparent layer is turned away from the die. In other words, both lenses are  
25 turned away from each other. All three combinations have good optical performance because the combination of two lenses works as a combination of a lens and field flatter. The very first arrangement has proved to be preferred since here the lowest height from all three can be achieved, furthermore, a large chief angle for the incoming electromagnetic radiation, preferably light, can be used in the cavity between the two lenses.

30 As to the cost reduction aspect of the invention, due to complete manufacture on wafer level a high impact on the production cost can be provided. However, there are other advantages as well. Since the layers are glued on the wafer and the tolerances within the focusing direction are very small, there is no need for a focus adjustment, i.e. the heights within the wafer level optical system can be controlled to a high degree. In existing modules

for comparison, the lens and the die can be tilted which will lead in the output pictures to shading of sharpness since the focus plane is not parallel to the photosensitive area on the die surface. With the present invention the optical system will be parallel so that the tilt error can be reduced to nearly zero. A further problem of the existing modules is the alignment of the optical center of the optical system with the optical center of the photosensitive area, i.e. the middle image, on the die surface. For manufacture on wafer level, i.e. WLP, there exist techniques to align two wafers accurate within a few micrometers. At this moment, the alignment is about 100 micrometers. Since lens performance drops to outer sides, recognizable as vignette, i.e. the image shades off gradually into the surrounding, and as increasing error in the lens's MTF, i.e. sharpness is degrading, accurate placement off the layers is very crucial. Moreover, existing modules have plastic lenses and thus, may not be heated over 80°C. As a standard technique to place and assemble components on a PCB reflow soldering is known. However, this process has peak temperatures of about 240°C. This means reflow soldering can not be used for assembling today's modules. With the introduced glass layer stack process according to the present invention this will be possible.

It should be noted that one of the transparent layers or an additional transparent layer can be made of IR glass. Advantageously, infrared radiation contained within the normal light spectrum is prevented from reaching the integrated circuitry of the SSIS. Thus, performance of the SSIS is not harmed by warming up.

In a further development of the present invention, it may be desirable to have a diaphragm within the wafer level optical system. Such diaphragm will enhance the optical performance of the wafer level optical system for the SSIS. According to the individual application, such diaphragm may be adapted to the desired depth of focus, e.g. a high depth of focus is applicable in all applications where the object to capture is not within a fixed distance to the photosensitive area. With respect to the present invention, a diaphragm can be provided easily by an additional diaphragm layer to the stack of layers forming the wafer level optical system. The diaphragm layer will be made of an opaque material, wherein opaque means that it is not transparent for the electromagnetic radiation which is captured by the wafer level optical system to be projected onto the photosensitive area of the SSIS.

According to a further embodiment of the present invention, said second transparent layer is a wafer level lens holder and optical means for modulating electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area are placed within said wafer level lens holder. The wafer level lens holders may also be made of glass, preferable for WLP it is made from a glass sheet having wafer size. In this glass sheet



cavities are made, in which optical lenses can be placed as means for modulating electromagnetic radiation. These cavities may be generated by use of very fine sandblasting or powderblasting. The same method as used for generating a spacer layers, e.g. between the SSIS die and the cover glass.

As to the mounting of SSIS on wafer level, such process may comprise the following: at first, the dies are packed. This packing on wafer level includes the installation of micro lenses and the cover glass sheet, i.e. said first transparent layer, and if necessary said spacer layer. Onto the cover glass an IR glass layer can be mounted for damping infrared radiation. On top of the IR glass layer now the wafer level lens holder is placed. This placing can be done with great accuracy, since methods for alignments on wafer level are well known. This means that once the wafer level lens holder is in right position all cavities for receiving the lenses are in right position, i.e. coinciding with the respective photosensitive area of each SSIS contained on the wafer. After the wafer level lens holder is glued to the IR glass the lenses can be mounted into the cavities of the wafer level lens holders. After mounting the lenses the modules are separated to single modules, which can further be mounted to a flex foil for better interconnection. In case that all layers are made of glass the final SSIS module needs for a sunshade. Such a sunshade can be mounted before installation into an application, or be a part of the housing in which the SSIS module will be installed.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more clear from the following description of the preferred embodiments thereof, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. It is noted that through the drawings same or equivalent parts remain the same reference number. All drawings are intended to illustrate some aspects and embodiments of the present invention. Devices and manufacture steps are depicted in a simplified way for reason of clarity. Not all alternatives and options are shown and therefore, the present invention is not limited to the content of the accompanying drawings.

In the following, the present invention will be described in greater detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows according to a first aspect of the present invention a slice plane of a wafer with micro lensed SSISs dies and an air gap formed by combination of a spacer layer and a cover glass layer;

Fig. 2a – 2d illustrate according to a second aspect of the present invention slice planes of wafers with SSISs which demonstrate arrangements of the layer stack forming a wafer level optical system;

Fig. 3a – 3d represent simulations of different wafer level optical systems; and

5 Fig. 4a – 4e chart a SSIS wafer level packing process according to a further embodiment of the present invention.

Fig.1 shows a slice plane of a part of a silicon wafer 10, comprising an array  
10 of SSIS dies (not illustrated in Fig.1). There are micro lenses 12 mounted onto the photosensitive area of each individual SSIS die. To provide an air gap for the micro lenses 12, according to the present invention, there is a spacer layer 20, which is glued or bonded together with a glass layer 30, attached to the silicon wafer 10. Additionally, there are illustrated dicing lines S, in Fig.1, where the final wafer level packed SSIS modules will be  
15 diced into single SSIS modules.

In Fig.2a to 2d show, in way of slice planes as in Fig.1, different arrangements for the wafer level optical system for an SSIS, according to the principle of the present invention. All through the Fig.2a to 2d there is a silicon wafer 11, comprising an array of SSIS dies (not illustrated in Fig. 2a to 2d) and a covering glass layer 31, preferable made of  
20 an IR glass. For better illustration, there is only shown a section of the whole wafer, what is indicated by the dotted line on the left side of each Fig. 2a to 2e. It will be noted that within the arrangement of the silicon wafer 11 and the glass layer 31, there may be attached lenses to the photosensitive area of the SSIS dies according to the detailed illustration of Fig.1. As to the performance of the introduced wafer level optical systems, to this will be referred  
25 together with Fig.3a to 3d.

The wafer level optical system in Fig.2a only comprises the first glass layer 31 and a second glass layer providing convex lenses 50 orientated away from surface of the silicon wafer 11. In Fig.2b there is the only change in comparison to Fig.2a that a spacer layer 22 has been inserted between the first transparent layer 31 and the second transparent  
30 layer 40 containing the lenses 50. As to Fig.2c, there is a further minor change with respect to Fig.2b, here an additional glass layer 42 comprising lenses 52 has been inserted between the spacer layer 22 and the first glass layer 31. In this embodiment, there is an air gap between the two lenses 50, 52 of the wafer level optical system. Finally, Fig. 2d shows an

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arrangement, again in comparison to Fig.2b, wherein a additional glass layer 44 with lenses 54 is arranged between the spacer layer 22 and the glass layer 40.

Now reference is made to Fig.3a to 3d, here the performance of some examples for wafer level optical systems according to the present invention are illustrated by way of simulation diagrams. The simulations give results according to performance and dimensions of a wafer level optical system according to the present invention. All simulation diagrams read as follows: starting from the left, i.e. the real image which is to be projected by the optical system, there are light rays, which are depicted as lines, going through the optical system and crossing each other behind the optical system. The crossing points of these simulated light rays could be connected by a drawing line, this would lead to the ideal image plane wherein the real image would be projected without error. However, since the photosensitive area of a SSIS is flat, the wafer level optical system has to be adapted to a flat photosensitive area as image plane. Looking at Fig.3a shows that an optical system with only one lens has a very curved image plane and therefore, produces increasingly low performance towards the edges of the images plane. Fig.3b to 3d displays the advantage of a second lens within the optical system, since both lenses work together as to focus and as to flatten the image plane and thus, the image plane is more adapted towards the photosensitive area. The arrangement in Fig.3b has proved to be the best, since the arrangement is very low in height. This is due to the fact, that a large angle for the traveling light can be used in the air cavity between the two lenses.

Now reference is made to Fig.4a to 4e, here several steps of the manufacture process of a further embodiment of the present invention are illustrated. Since one major aspect of the present invention is a wafer level optical system for SSIS devices, Fig.4a starts at the stage where the dies are already packed. As can be seen from top of Fig.4a, there is mounted on the top side of the silicon wafer 15 the spacer layer 25 for the micro lenses (not illustrated in Fig.4a and b). In a next step a cover glass layer 35 is attached to the spacer layer 25. Onto the cover glass layer 35 is an IR glass layer 36 mounted. Till this point in manufacture, the SSIS dies are wafer level packed. Here follows a further step for installing an optical system for the SSIS on wafer level. Therefore, on top of the IR glass layer 36 a wafer level lens holder 60 with cavities 62 for lenses is placed. This leads to Fig.4b. Now referring to Fig.4c, after the wafer level lens holder 60 has been glued to the IR glass layer 36, the lenses 70 are mounted into the cavities 62 of the wafer level lens holders 60. In Fig.4d can be seen that the single SSIS modules are separated after mounting of the lenses 70. In a next step such a SSIS module 100 can be installed onto a flex foil 90 for interconnection.

Furthermore, due to the reason that the whole SSIS module optical part consists of glass, there is a need for a sunshade 80. This sunshade 80 can be mounted before installation into an application or can be a part of a housing in which the SSIS module 100 can be installed.

5 The embodiments of the present invention described herein are intended to be taken in an illustrative and not in a limiting sense. Various modifications may be made to these embodiments by persons skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims.

For instance although ideal for making active devices, it exhibits poor high frequency properties due to its semiconductor nature, there are poor interconnects and cross  
10 talk, and high-quality strip lines and inductors are hard to integrate. However, Silicon-On-Insulator (SOI) technology can be used as a new approach to enable semiconductor circuitry to be transferred to a range of insulating substrates. The advantage of using an insulator over silicon is that parasitic capacitances are reduced. A broader approach to SOI is so-called Silicon-On-Anything (SOA) technology. With SOA the complete circuitry is transferred to  
15 an insulating substrate such as glass and thus, the afore-mentioned negative effects can almost entirely be eliminated. In principle, the wafer containing functional electronic circuitry is glued top-down to another substrate and the original silicon is almost completely removed. At the moment, SOA and SOI technology seems to provide possibilities for improvements in both manufacture, e.g. reachable tolerances, and performance of imager  
20 sensor modules, e.g. lower power consumption.

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## CLAIMS:

1. A solid state image sensor (SSIS) with a semiconductor substrate layer having electrical functional integrated circuitry providing a sensor side with at least one photosensitive area, wherein over said sensor side a stack of layers is arranged, wherein said stack comprises:
  - 5 a) a first transparent layer arranged over said sensor side;
  - b) at least one second transparent layer being arranged over said first transparent layer comprising optical means for modulating of electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area; and
  - c) at least one spacer layer arranged between said sensor side surface and said
- 10 second transparent layer, wherein said spacer layer provides a through hole coinciding with said photosensitive area and having at least same areal dimensions and shape as said photosensitive area.
2. A solid state image sensor according to claim 1, wherein said photosensitive
- 15 area is recessed with respect to surface of said sensor side.
3. A solid state image sensor according to claim 1 or 2, wherein micro lenses are arranged over said photosensitive area.
- 20 4. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of said transparent layers is made of IR glass or glass with IR coating on top.
5. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a spacer layer is arranged between said sensor side and said first transparent layer.
- 25 6. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a spacer layer is arranged between said first transparent layer and said second transparent layer.

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7. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a third transparent layer is arranged between said first transparent layer and said second transparent layer comprising optical means for modulating of electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area.

5

8. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein an additional diaphragm layer is arranged within said stack of layers which comprises a diaphragm coinciding with said photosensitive area.

10 9. A solid state image sensor according to claim 9, wherein said diaphragm layer is arranged on top of said second transparent layer.

10. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said layers one upon the other are mounted together with an adhesive.

15

11. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said second transparent layer is a wafer level lens holder and optical means for modulating electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area are placed within said wafer level lens holder.

20

12. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said optical means for modulating electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area are optical lenses.

25 13. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said spacer layer(s) is made of glass, plastic, or metal.

14. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said spacer layer(s) are formed by powder blasting, Ultra Sonic drilling, or etching.

30

15. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said transparent layers are made of glass.

16. A solid state image sensor according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said transparent layer(s) are formed by powder blasting, Ultra Sonic drilling, etching, stamping, hot glass molding.

5 17. A method for manufacture an array of solid state image sensors (SSIS) according to one of the preceding claims on wafer level, wherein a wafer comprises a plurality of solid-state image sensors integrated circuitry, micro lenses are applied onto said wafer, said micro lenses being respectively coincided with a photosensitive area of said solid-state imager sensor circuitry, over said array of micro lensed SSISs a stack of different layers is applied forming an optical system over each individual SSIS, the manufacture of said stack comprising:

a) applying at least one spacer layer, said spacer layer comprising a plurality of through holes, said through holes being coincided with a respective photosensitive area of said solid-state imager sensor circuitry;

15 b) applying at least a first transparent layer; and

c) applying a second transparent layer, said transparent layer comprising optical means for modulating of electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area.

20 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein said applied layers have the same shape as the wafer comprising said plurality of solid-state image sensors integrated circuitry.

19. A method according to one of the claims 17 or 18, wherein said applied layers are mounted together by gluing with an adhesive.

**ABSTRACT:**

A solid state image sensor (SSIS) and improved manufacture thereof are introduced. The SSIS comprises a semiconductor substrate layer, in which electrical functional circuitry is integrated, Said semiconductor substrate layer provides a sensor side with at least one photosensitive area. Over said sensor side a stack of different layers is arranged, wherein said stack comprises at least one first transparent layer arranged over said sensor side, at least one second transparent layer being arranged over said first transparent layer comprising optical means for modulating of electromagnetic radiation traveling through said optical means to said photosensitive area, and at least one spacer layer arranged between said sensor side surface and said second transparent layer, wherein said spacer layer provides a through hole coinciding with said photosensitive area and having at least same areal dimensions and shape as said photosensitive area.

**Fig. 4e**



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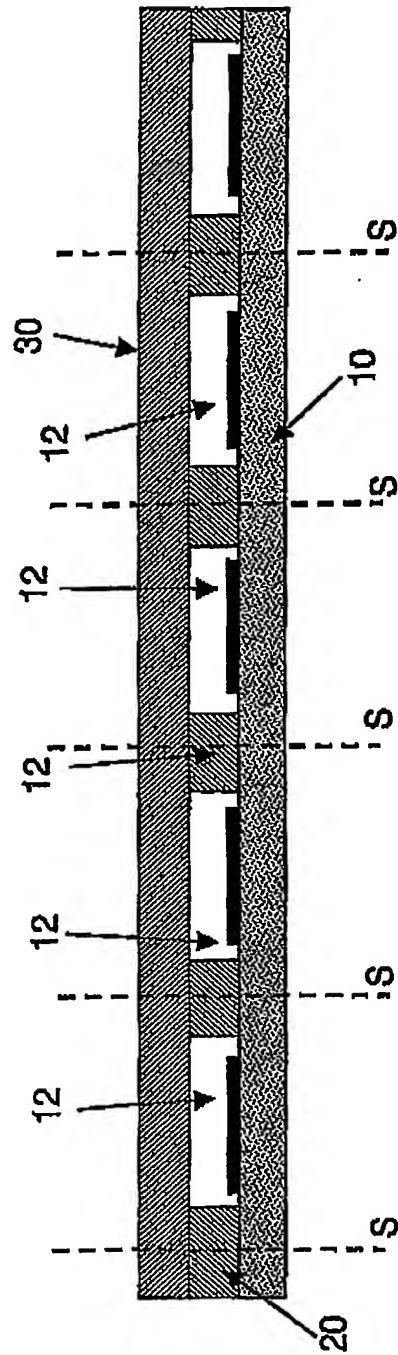


FIG.1

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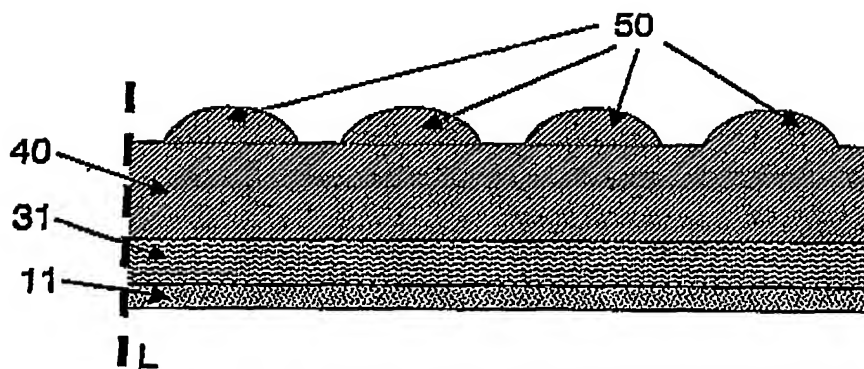


FIG. 2a

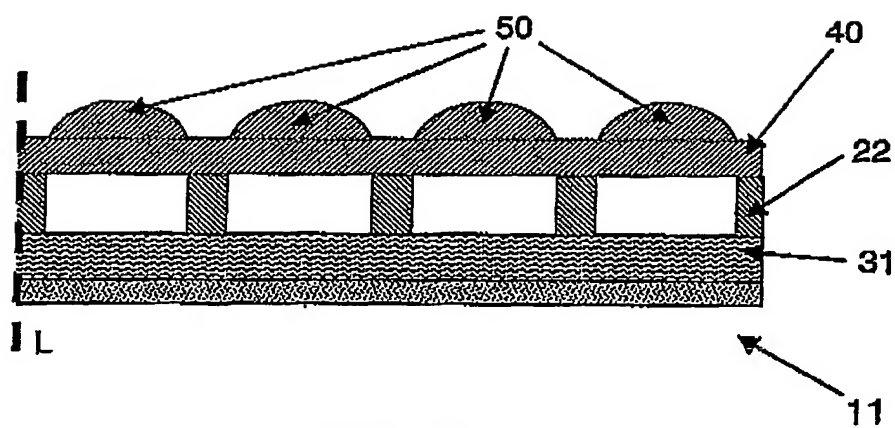


FIG. 2b

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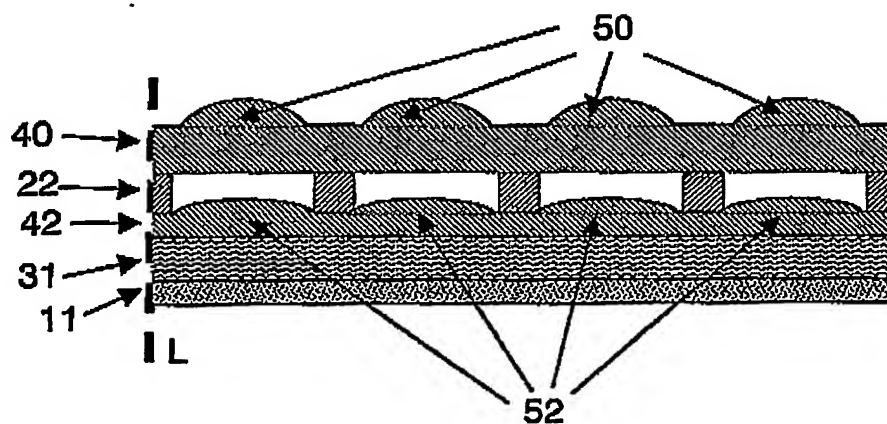


FIG.2c

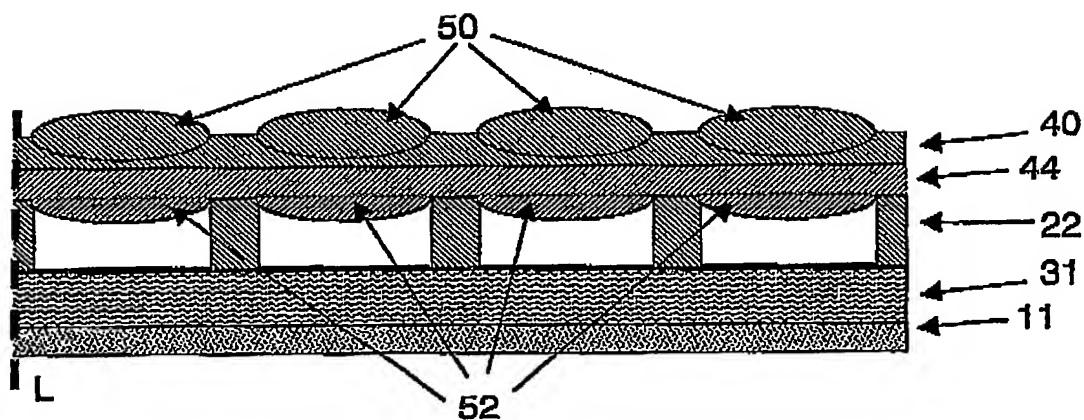


FIG.2d

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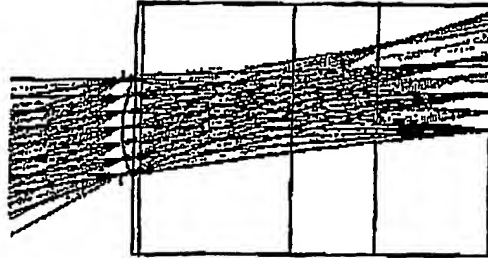


FIG. 3a

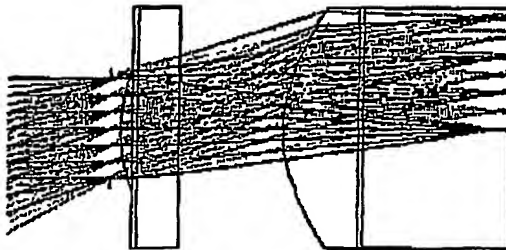


FIG. 3b

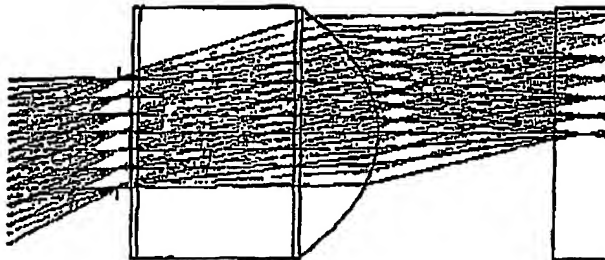


FIG. 3c

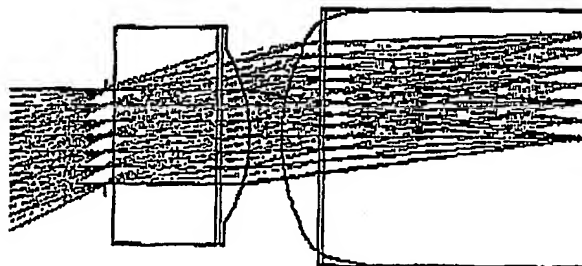


FIG. 3d

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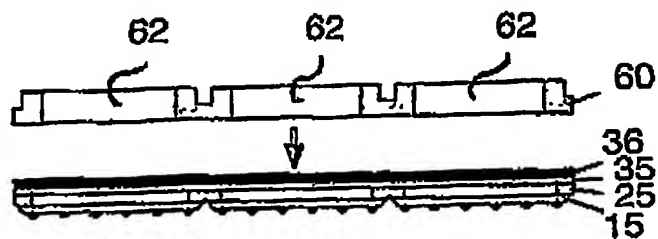


FIG. 4a



FIG. 4b

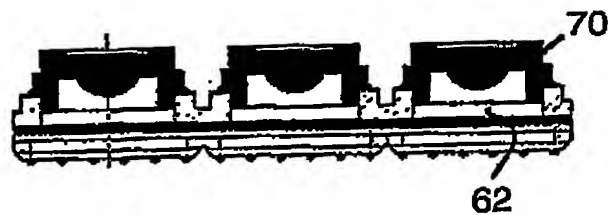


FIG. 4c

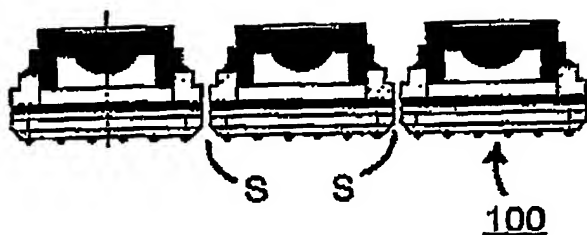


FIG. 4d

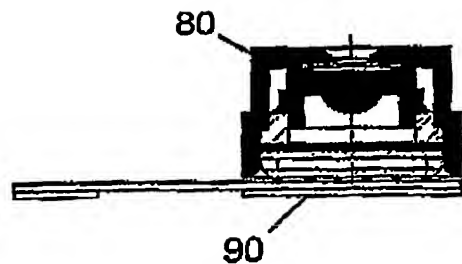


FIG. 4e

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